

Gulf tanker fire out, leakage stopped, salvage team says

BAHRAIN (R) — A Dutch salvage team has put out the fire aboard a fully-loaded Saudi-registered oil tanker which mysteriously exploded in the Gulf on Wednesday night, giving rise to speculation that it had been fired upon.

A spokesman in Bahrain for the salvage firm Smit International said the tanker, the Safina Al Arab, was no longer spilling oil and that the firefighters were optimistic about saving the vessel and most of its load.

But he warned that its tanks were still hot and that the fire could start again despite continual hosing with water and foam by the team's three powerful tugs. Other shipping sources said the salvage men might anchor the vessel Friday and try to transfer the crude to another tanker.

The cause of the explosion, after which one Filipino member

of the 33-man crew was missing, remained a mystery. But there was increasing speculation among Gulf shipping circles that it may have been hit as a target in the Iran-Iraq war.

Most of the Gulf Arab states, which support Iraq in the war, imposed a news blackout on the incident. Staff at Bahrain's State Radio told Reuters they had been ordered by officials "not to touch" foreign news agency reports on the tanker.

There was still no claim of responsibility or other official comment from Iraq which in the past has been quick to report its air-

force attacks on Iranian or other foreign ships it considers to have entered its self-proclaimed prohibited war zone at the north of the Gulf.

Gulf shipping sources quoted the mayday message by the tanker's captain as saying: "We have been shot." He and his crew were picked up by another vessel but their whereabouts were not immediately known Friday.

Iraq, normally quick to report its air attacks on vessels which it says have entered its self-proclaimed prohibited war zone in the northern Gulf, has not yet mentioned the incident.

The 178,808-ton Safina Al Arab, laden with 357,000 tonnes of crude, was bound for France after loading at Iran's Kharg Island and oil terminal when the explosion occurred.

Planes on the giant vessel's hull

were buckled by the blast and fire broke out round its tanks and accommodation section.

The Iranian News Agency IRNA carried a brief report on the stricken tanker late Thursday night and said it was crippled by an "unspecified explosion" in its holds.

Iraq has reported attacks on several non-Iranian merchantmen in the Gulf since declaring the prohibited war zone around Kharg Island and Iran's northern Gulf ports.

The Safina Al Arab is on seven-year charter to a subsidiary of the Swedish group Salvinvest from its owners the Safina Company, based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Saudi rulers, along with those of other Gulf states, have poured billions of dollars into Iraq's long struggle against Iran.

ECWA to study Palestinian conditions

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The 11th session of the Economic Commission of Western Asia (ECWA) concluded its four-day meetings here Thursday with a decision to study the economic conditions and the situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories within a limited period of time, Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

The ECWA also decided to participate in the fourth United Nations Industrial Development Conference which will be held in Vienna next August, Petra said.

Participants also decided to hold four technical meetings between 1986 and 1987 to study subjects related to statistics, production, commodities, new sources of energy, food security in the developing countries and supporting the studies and activities in the field of developing the labour force.

Participants decided to support the ECWA programmes in the field of raising the contribution of the Arab women to the economic development and drawing up a formula for the general policy of the ECWA to be in harmony with its programmes and plans in order to meet its responsibilities.

The participating delegations also decided to amend the article to adopt Arabic language as an official one in functional and administrative matters.

The conference passed a decision urging the general secretariat of the ECWA to contact the Arab League, its organisations and the Arab regional organisations with a view to work for a regional conference for women.

Kuwait deports over 250 people

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has deported between 250 and 300 people for political reasons since a wave of bombings hit the country in December, a senior government official said Thursday.

General Youssef Bader Al Kharafi, undersecretary in the Ministry of Interior, said those deported were of different nationalities and had been expelled from the country because of their "political notions".

He told Reuters the deportations were one result of a tightening of security after the bombings, which hit the U.S. and French embassies and government installations, leaving six dead and more than 80 injured.

A three-man state security court sentenced five Iraqis and a Lebanese to death by hanging last month following their conviction of involvement in the bombings.

The six, of whom three are still at large, were among 25 accused of involvement in the attacks.

Gen. Kharafi said the government was taking seriously repeated threats of attacks in Kuwait but also on Kuwaiti diplomats and embassies, particularly in Europe, that it had received since the trial.

He said the threats had been received in telephone calls and by mail from extremist groups such as the Islamic Jihad (holy struggle) and Al Mujaheddin guerrilla groups.

Kuwait regularly deports around 2,000 people a year for non-political reasons, usually associated with entering the country illegally.

Gen. Kharafi said there remained many members of the Al-Daawa Al-Islamia (Islamic call) group in Kuwait, but added the government would not bother them if they did nothing wrong.

Prior to the bombings trial, which started in February, the accused were said to have had links with Al Daawa, a shadowy

Shi'ite Muslim group. Gen. Kharafi said he had received no word on the hangings of those sentenced to death by the State Security Court.

The death sentences cannot be carried out before they are ratified by the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

But Gen. Kharafi said security would be tightened further if the hangings took place.

He said Kuwait had tightened restrictions on entering the country but had not stopped issuing visas and no objection certificates for those wishing to come in.

About 50 per cent of Kuwait's 1.7 million people are non-Kuwaitis.

"After the bombings we have to look carefully at the people who are coming in," Gen. Kharafi said.

A number of plans were now under study to improve security in the country, he said, but he declined to elaborate.

Arabs to raise funds to restore Jerusalem sites

TUNIS (Petra) — Maintenance and restoration of holy places and archaeological sites in Jerusalem and allocating the required funds for such operations will start forthwith, according to a decision by the executive bureau of the Arab housing and reconstruction ministers, which concluded its meetings here Thursday.

In its final recommendations, the bureau called for the necessity on the part of Arab countries to

participate in the conference of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) which will convene in Gabon at the end of April, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The executive bureau has charged Jordan's Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Hamdullah Al Nabulsi with heading the bureau's delegation to the Habitat conference, Petra added.

Concluding its meetings, the bureau approved a draft agreement for co-operation between the conference members and the Habitat.

It also approved a programme of scientific seminars for the next two years and the proposed budget for 1985.

The next meeting for the executive bureau was set for Nov. 10, 1984, Petra added.

Arabs seek support to end Gulf war

BRUSSELS (R) — An Arab League delegation Thursday started a European tour here seeking support for efforts to end the Gulf war and bring Iran to the negotiating table, Belgian officials said.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens told the delegation of Jordanian and North Yemen Foreign Ministers Taher Al Masri and Ahmad Mohammad Al-Asbahi that his country shared its European Community partners' wish

for an early end to the war.

But the Belgian officials said Mr. Martens did not go beyond a statement issued by Community foreign ministers on March 27 calling on Iran and Iraq to co-operate in the search for a peaceful solution honourable to them both.

Arab League foreign ministers decided last month to actively seek world pressure on Iran to end the three-year-old war which has heightened tension in the Gulf.

A league spokesman said the Arab envoys were also trying to stem the illicit export of weapons from Europe which enabled Iran to continue its attack on Iraqi territory and maintain its refusal to join peace talks.

Belgium was not particularly suspected as a source of illegal weapons to Iran and Mr. Martens assured the ministers that Brussels would continue to ban their export.

Israel denies arms sales to Nicaraguan rebels

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A row has erupted in Israel over allegations that the government is providing arms to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels. A Foreign Ministry spokesman took the unusual step of specifically denying that Israel had

supplied weapons to the rebels, as reported this week by American NBC Television.

"Normally we do not discuss arms sales at all but this allegation is so baseless and casts such a slur upon Israel's image that we decided to make a public denial," an official told reporters Thursday.

The affair has focused attention on talks in Washington between Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche and U.S. officials on Israeli aid to Central America.

In the NBC report, a Nicaraguan rebel commander said his group's Soviet-made weapons were from a batch Israel captured from Palestinian commandos in the 1982 Lebanon war.

The rebels were said to prefer such weapons because they can use ammunition captured from the Soviet-supplied Nicaraguan

Army. Yair Tsaban, a left-wing Israeli parliamentarian, says he has information indicating Israel has supplied the rebels with arms. He has called for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. Tsaban told the newspaper Al Hamishmar that the supplies began after a visit to Honduras by then Defence Minister Ariel Sharon in December 1982.

He said Mr. Sharon met the Honduran chief of staff, described as a rebel supporter, to arrange the sales.

The Jerusalem Post devoted a long editorial to the issue Thursday, also suggesting that deliveries were made through Honduras where the rebels have bases.

The newspaper said a thorough review of the subject would be held after Israel's general elections in July.

Egyptian envoy starts African tour

CAIRO (R) — A senior Egyptian envoy left for Nigeria Friday at the start of a tour of five African states to explain an Egyptian plan aimed at ending the Gulf war.

Foreign Ministry officials said senior diplomat Ahmad Sidqi was carrying messages detailing the plan to the presidents of Nigeria, Zaire, Senegal, the Ivory Coast and Guinea from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Another envoy, Ahmad Zant, is expected to leave for Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Kenya Saturday, they added.

Details of the peace plan have not been disclosed, but the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram said last week it included a ceasefire, formation of a peacekeeping force on the Iran-Iraq border and agreement by both Iran and Iraq to end the conflict through arbitration or negotiations.

Oman may support Egypt's peace plan

DHAKA (R) — Oman may support an Egyptian plan for ending the war between Iran and Iraq, including a proposal for a peace force along their border, Oman's Foreign Minister Youssef Al Alawi Abdullah said.

Mr. Abdullah, who arrived Friday on a two-day visit, was cautiously optimistic about the plan's outcome.

"We will certainly support the proposal if it has a chance of success," he told reporters at the airport.

He said he would discuss with Bangladesh leaders the question of political and economic co-operation among Muslim Nations.

But he said in Lebanon would be prominent in his talks here.

Turkish prime minister flies to Tehran today

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal flies to Tehran Saturday on his first official visit abroad since he came to power last December after general elections ended three years of military rule.

His two-day trip, at the invitation of the Iranians, caps a week-long effort by Turkey to boost its already highly valuable trade with Tehran.

Last weekend, State Minister Ismail Ozdogar travelled to Tehran accompanied by more than 200 businessmen in what newsmen here have dubbed a trade invasion.

Officials say the immediate aim was to raise Turkish exports to Iran — which range from food through iron and steel to plastics — to \$1.5 billion this year to balance oil imports from Iran of around five million tonnes, more than a third of Turkish oil imports.

Last year, Turkish exports to Iran reached \$1.08 billion, its biggest to any one country, with imports reaching \$1.22 billion.

Long-term projects for discussion include possible crude oil and natural gas pipelines, more work for Turkish contractors in



Turgut Ozal

Iran and a proposal for a joint tractor factory.

The massive recent increase in Turkish exports to Iran, up from a mere \$12 million in 1979, reflects what government officials call Ankara's "honest attitude" towards the Islamic regime of Ayatollah Khomeini since the 1979 revolution.

Although itself founded on strictly secular principles of government, Turkey kept open all

channels to Tehran after the overthrow of the Shah and has observed an unwavering neutrality in the war between its neighbours Iran and Iraq.

Its neutral stance has led Turkey at least once to try to mediate an end to the war. Earlier this year, President Kenan Evren returned from a trip to Saudi Arabia saying he was willing to try again.

But the government has since spelt out that it will not take any initiative until both Tehran and Baghdad request it and officials say so far there has been no indication that Iran is changing its stance of spurning mediation.

"Mr. Ozal is not going to Iran in any way as mediator," said one senior official.

Mr. Ozal is likely to re-iterate Turkey's concern that fighting in the war could threaten a vital oil pipeline to Turkey from Iraq or stir up trouble from Kurdish separatists in the mainly Kurdish border region of the three nations.

Turkey issued stiff warnings to both sides last year when fighting on the northern and central war fronts was fierce that it would not tolerate any threat to its vital interests. Since then, both areas have

been relatively quiet.

Other topics could cover the thousands of Iranians still fleeing every year across the border into Turkey as well as drugs and other smuggling rife along the same remote frontier.

The senior official acknowledged that Turkey's position as a member of the NATO alliance and a close friend of many Middle Eastern countries made its links with Iran unique.

"This could benefit all sides," he added. "But the prime minister is not acting as some sort of channel for others," he added.

Officials note that previous practice by new Turkish prime ministers has been to visit Iran and Pakistan first, which with Turkey are in the process of reviving a trilateral Regional Co-operation for Development (RCD) group.

Mr. Ozal is scheduled to visit Pakistan next month, followed by a visit to Libya, another valuable trading partner.

One concern here over Mr. Ozal's trip to Tehran has been a possible threat from Armenian commando groups who last month wounded two diplomats in attacks on Turkish targets in Tehran.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION
MAIN CHANNEL
17:30 Koran
17:45 Cartoons
18:00 Children Programme
18:20 Local Programme
18:30 Whiz Kids
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Jordan in the Islamic History
21:00 Islamic Film: Ryan's Daughter
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Jordan in the Islamic History
21:00 Feature Film: Ryan's Daughter
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film Continued

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
11:00 Morning Show
11:05 News
12:00 News Summary
12:03 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Jordan Weekly
14:30 Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:10 Old Favorites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Music
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 News
19:30 News with a Star
20:00 Good Old Days
20:30 Just a Minute
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Country Music
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Play of the Week
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Classical Concert
22:00 News Headlines

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
11:00 Morning Show
11:05 News
12:00 News Summary
12:03 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Jordan Weekly
14:30 Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:10 Old Favorites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Music
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 News
19:30 News with a Star
20:00 Good Old Days
20:30 Just a Minute
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Country Music
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Play of the Week
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Classical Concert
22:00 News Headlines

TODAY'S EVENTS
LECTURE
* A lecture on King Mesha's campaigns by Dr. Axel Knaul at the Goethe Institute at 7:00 p.m.
EXHIBITIONS
* Important Orientalist prints of the 19th Century.
* Exhibition of paintings by Kamal Boutina at the Jordan National Gallery opens.
* Photographs exhibition by Saleh Dababash opens at the Professional Associations Complex.
* The Bahrain Exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
* Exhibitions of important oriental prints from the 19th century at Alia Art Gallery.
* Australian graphic art Donnelle Patterson at Alia Art Gallery.

FILMS
* "Kamikaze" at the Goethe Institute at 8:00 p.m.

VIDEO
* Zaidou ou la Destinée at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.

MUSEUMS
Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 6610267
American Centre Library 44371
British Council 41520
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
American Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

VOIC OF AMERICA
1360 MW. 7200, 5653, 17140 11925
and 15210 KHz.
06:00 VOA Morning News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; editorial; world and U.S. analysis; roundtable; documentary analysis.
17:00 News
17:10 News
17:30 News
17:40 News
17:50 News
18:00 News
18:10 News
18:20 News
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23:40 News
23:50 News
24:00 News

AMMAN AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
07:00 Cairo (MS)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
09:50 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:25 Laraca (CV)
14:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
16:45 Laraca (RJ)
17:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
17:20 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:45 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
19:00 Tripoli (RJ)
19:50 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
22:05 Cairo (MS)
00:30 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES
05:10 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
05:45 Cairo (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:00 Cairo (MS)
08:30 Athens (RJ)
10:30 Tripoli (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:15 Laraca (CV)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:45 Laraca (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:40 Kuwait (KU)
19:30 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
00:40 Jeddah (RJ)
20:15 Baghdad (RJ)
20:30 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
00:05 Cairo (MS)

CHURCHES
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabbal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabbal Luweibdeh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabbal Hussein, 66175.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Jabbal, 33541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabbal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Sunday Baptist School in Shamsiye, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES
03:24 Sunrise
04:52 Sunrise
11:34 Sunrise
15:14 Sunrise
16:46 Sunrise
19:43 Sunrise

MARITIME TRAFFIC
Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:
* Agis Topic
* Anthiphe
* Kiosok
* Astor
* Nedlloyd Ruten
* Angellia
* Marens
* Costa Wiseman
* Radnor
Amin Kewar and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (six lines) at your service.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair with westerly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Low/high temperature in deg.C
Amman 7/23
Aqaba 12/37
Jordan Valley 13/30
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 22, Aqaba 30. Humidity results: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE
Local teller rates in ffs
Belgian franc 68/4
Dutch guilder 123/7
French franc 312/8
Italian lire (for 100) 22/5
Japanese yen (for 100) 165/6
Lebanese lira 1265/9
Omani rial 107/6
Saudi rial 102/2
Swiss franc 168/7
Syrian lira 53/6
U.A.E. dirham 101/4
U.K. sterling pound 527/1
U.S. dollar 373/5
W. German mark 139/4

EMERGENCIES
Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, fire, fire 199
Fire, fire, fire 75121
Civil Defence rescue 66111
Police headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 192, 2111, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 36390-1
Electric Power Co. 36391-2
Municipal water service 71125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS
Hussein Medical Centre 81381-32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jaber Al-Jawad Maternity 42362
Fakhrieh, Shamsiye 36140
Al-Fakhrieh, Shamsiye 664171-4
Shamsiye Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Muhsin Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic Abadi 665292
Al-Abadi, Abadi 664164
Italian, Al-Mulhejreen 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marfa 91611

GENERAL
Jordan Television 73111
Radio Jordan 74111
Ministry of Tourism 42311
Hotel complaints 666412
Price complaints 661176
Telephone:
Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Cable or telegram 18
Repair service 11
Dr. Tayseer Al Hudhud 671246
Grand Arab pharmacy 24051
Al Wafiq pharmacy 22924
Al Hind pharmacy 44042
Juss Al Taj pharmacy 771030
Rainbow taxi 37249
Khams taxi 43500
Ambassador taxi 664660
Karnak taxi 668768
Nakhla taxi 663003
Jihad taxi 842664

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammed M. Al Abbadi 778959

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in ffs per kg.
Beans 280/240
Beans (Mukammar) 240/210
Beans 250/240
Broad beans 230/200
Beet root 130/100
Cabbage 60/40
Carrot 130/100
Cauliflower (white) 260/220
Cauliflower 400/350
Chick peas 130/100
Cucumber (large) 250/200
Cucumber (small) 370/340
Eggplant (large) 130/100
Eggplant (small) 150/120
Garlic 230/200
Grapefruit 170/150
Green Almonds 180/150
Lemon 210/180
Mallow 440/400
Marrow (large) 250/200
Marrow (small) 350/300
Matari 230/200
Mushrooms 600/500
Onion (dry) 100/80
Onion (green) 160/140
Okra 150/100
Orange (local) 180/160
Oranges (Shamoun) 360/320
Peas 500/450
Peanut 360/320
Pepper (sweet) 320/280
Pepper (hot green) 360/320
Peppercorn 160/120
Spinach 180/160
Tomato 350/300

Cement firm makes profit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Due to a translation error, the Jordan Times reported in its Thursday (April 26, 1984) edition that the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) had sustained losses over the past two years.

The company in question, according to a report in Al Dustour newspaper, was the Jordan Fertilizer Industries Company, and not JCFC.

The JCFC has realised considerable profits over the past two years, according to a company spokesman. The cement company's records indicate that a total of JD 4,512,413 in profits were made from April 1, 1983 until Dec. 31, 1983 compared with JD 3,794,454 from April 1, 1982 until March 31, 1983, the spokesman said.

JCFC will by the end of this month distribute dividends and profits to shareholders amounting to 12 per cent of the nominal value of its shares.

According to the JCFC spokesman, the cement company paid to the treasury JD 14.5 million in the first nine months of 1983. The Jordan Times apologises for the error.



TRANSPORT TALKS: His Majesty King Hussein receives Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Jabbar Abdul Rahim Al Asdi (second from right) at the Royal Court

Thursday in the company of Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat (on his right) and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja' Al Sultan (Petra photo)

Iraqi minister discusses importation of local goods

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior official from the Iraqi Ministry of Trade, Mr. Ghaleb Al Radi, has held talks with the Amman Chamber of Commerce President Isam Budeir on manufactured products which Iraq intends to buy from Jordan.

According to Mr. Budeir, the Iraqi authorities have issued licences to Iraqi merchants to import certain commodities, and each merchant is allowed to buy up to

5,000 Iraqi dinars worth of Jordanian products.

The Iraqi merchants are allowed to purchase products from seven countries including Jordan, Mr. Budeir said.

Mr. Budeir said that Jordanian producers had been asked to supply the Jordanian trade centre in Baghdad with samples of their products with specifications and prices suitable for the Iraqi market.

Labourers clinic opens in poor area

AMMAN (J.T.) — A medical clinic for labourers was opened at Jabal Al Hashimi Thursday by Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni deputising for Prime Minister Ahmad Al Obeidi.

The clinic, which cost JD 41,000 to build, is the fruit of co-operation between the Health Ministry, the Labour Ministry and the General Federation of Overland Transport (GFOT) in Jordan.

Dr. Ajlouni said in a speech that the clinic was badly needed in the poor district of Hashimi where a large number of labourers live. He also expressed appreciation to the GFOT for contributing to the establishment of the clinic and its management.

Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul

Islamic academy debates forthcoming new projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The restoration of transcripts in the Jerusalem project, designing social and economic development projects in the light of Islamic teaching, a project for the comprehensive indexing of Islamic Arab folklore and plastic arts as well as an Islamic demographic project, were the subjects of discussion in Thursday's session of the third annual meeting of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation), which resumed its meeting at the Regency Palace Hotel under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The conference also decided to form four committees to study these four projects which form the basis of the academy's second programme and these committees will start meeting Saturday.

Prince Hassan will deliver a lecture on Israeli settlement policy prior to the meetings of these committees.

Addressing the opening session of the meeting Prince Hassan, in delivering the inaugural speech, said that the Arab Nation is at present plagued by divisions and differences of opinion, and inter-

opening the conference at the Royal Cultural Centre, called for concerted efforts by Arab scholars, who he said, can shape an Islamic reply to the contemporary challenges and find solutions to problems facing the Arab World.

He also warned Arab countries that their enemies are seeking to divide them and to set one state against another in a bid to destroy their economic resources and sap their manpower capabilities and obliterate their identity.

Taking part in the five-day conference are 130 scholars and Muslim intellectuals from 32 countries.

Meanwhile, Prince Hassan Thursday hosted a dinner in honour of the delegations participating in the meeting of the academy.

Syrian team negotiates to mato, fruit purchase

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Syrian Ministry of Supply has arrived here for talks on purchasing Jordanian agricultural produce, according to a report in Al Dustour daily Arabic newspaper Thursday.

It said that the delegation will negotiate the purchase of at least 3,000 tonnes of citrus fruit and 200 tonnes of tomatoes.

The delegation members had talks with officials from the Jordan Co-operative Organisation on fac-

ilitating the transportation of Jordanian vegetables and fruit to Syria in accordance with an agreement signed between the two countries last year, the paper said.

Under that agreement, the two countries can exchange products worth JD 7 million but only JD 4.5 million worth of products have so far been traded, the paper added.

It quoted a delegation spokesman as saying that 12,000 tonnes of Jordanian tomatoes and aubergines will be shipped to Syria in the coming month.

Senate considers temporary laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) has approved 17 temporary laws relating to the national budget between the period 1974 to 1983, referred to by the Lower House of Parliament.

In the Senate session held Thursday under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi in the

presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sulaiman Arar and a number of ministers, the house referred to its Legal and Financial Committees a series of laws related to the civil retirement law during between the period 1974 to 1981. The committees will study these laws and present their views and recommendations for discussion in

the next session of the house.

Also referred to the Financial Committee were a series of temporary laws related to production duty levied on local manufactured products during the period of 1980 to 1981.

The Senate is scheduled to hold its next session Wednesday morning.

Hussein meets U.S. information head

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received the visiting director of the United States Information Agency (USIA), Charles Z. Wick, and discussed with him the latest developments in international communications and the role of the USIA.

They also discussed bilateral co-operation in education, cultural and information affairs.

Later Thursday Her Majesty Queen Noor received Mr. and Mrs. Wick and discussed with them the cultural exchange programme.

Minister of Information Laia

Sharaf also received at her office Thursday Mr. Wick, who is on a several day tour to Jordan.

The meeting discussed Jordanian-US relations in addition to the role of cultural centres and their fields of work.

Mrs. Sharaf also discussed with Mr. Wick information and culture issues in the rapid communications age as well as the future of media communications in relation to the use of satellites. Attending the meeting was the U.S. Ambassador in Amman Richard Vies.

Earlier Thursday Mr. Wick chaired a meeting of 23 regional di-

rectors of U.S. information centres to discuss issues related to the activities of U.S. information centres.

Mr. Wick arrived Amman Wednesday during which he will hold talks with Jordanian officials on U.S.-Jordanian relations and co-operation in information and international communications fields.

The USIA is an independent organisation within the executive branch responsible for the U.S. government's overseas information and cultural programmes, including the Voice of America and the Fulbright Scholarship programme.

Conference continues on role of women

AMMAN (Petra) — The 11th session of the Arab Women's Committee Thursday resumed its meeting under the chairmanship of Mrs. Hafsa Al Bashir, president of the National Federation of Jordanian Women.

Participants discussed three working papers, one on Jordanian working women and their role in agriculture, industry and commerce, presented to the session by Mrs. Buthaina Jardaneh, the second on women in Syria and their role in development while the third was about women and employment in Iraq.

The Jordanian paper said that the proportion of Jordanian women to men working in the ind-

ustrial sector is about 19 per cent. The rate of those working in the wholesale trade stands at about seven per cent while about seven per cent are also working in the retail trade.

At Wednesday's session of the conference, which is being jointly organised by the Arab League and the Ministry of Social Development in Jordan, Mrs. Habibah Barqawi, head of the Arab League women's department, reviewed activities and objectives of the Arab Women's Voluntary Fund.

Representative of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, Mrs. Nimreh Tannous Al Said, proposed that education policy in the Arab World and the image of

women in the Arab information media be taken into consideration.

Mrs. Barqawi then spoke about the impact of demographic changes on women and the family and the effects of migration particularly the forced migration of the Palestinian people.

Dr. Mohammad Talal, a Moroccan expert, who presented a study on the image of women in the Arab information media, said that the problems women in the Arab World are suffering from manifold.

Head of the Adult Teaching and Illiteracy Division at the Ministry of Education, Mr. Abdul Karim Al Momani, presented a study about adult teaching and the eradication of illiteracy in Jordan.

Following this, the participants listened to a briefing about the role of women's federations in the occupied Arab territories presented by president of the Palestinian Women's Federation, Mrs. Isam Abdul Hadi.

Mrs. Abdul Hadi said that there are 125 centres at which to teach illiterate people in the occupied Arab territories.

Surgeons open conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society of Surgeons (JSS) held their conference at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Thursday, which was attended by nearly 180 physicians and surgeons.

A total of 13 working papers were submitted to the participants pertaining mainly to the treatment of victims of road accidents in Jordan, first aid dealing with the effects of anaesthetics, children's injuries, and a study of liver related diseases.

The society's president, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Bilbeisi, said in a statement that JSS, which was established in 1972, has been holding conferences and medical seminars to highlight the advanced standards and great experience of Jordanian surgeons and to familiarise medical institutions and the Jordanian public on the research work being carried out by Jordanian surgeons.

Police arrest four after stor ny night of crime

AMMAN (J.T.) Amman police have caught a group of thieves who robbed stores and stole a small lorry during the stormy weather on the night of April 15.

A police spokesman was quoted as saying that the three robbers first stole a lorry at Hay Nazzal and then broke into 13 stores and a grocery in Hay Hamlan, both districts of Amman.

The lorry, containing the stolen items, was eventually abandoned by the robbers after being spotted by a citizen living in the area.

Satellite commissioning date nears

AMMAN (Petra) — A decision to adopt the operation guide for the ArabSat system was Thursday adopted by the Arab Satellite Communication Organisation's General Assembly.

During Thursday's session, a decision that the wealthy Arab countries should buy the additional shares of the organisation thus raising its liquidity was taken.

As the date of commissioning is nearing, the assembly decided to charge ArabSat to change the space communication channels in the various Arab countries so that they pass through the Arab satellite whenever this is possible.

The ArabSat meeting started in Amman Tuesday under the chairmanship of Jordanian Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben.

Following the adoption of the meeting's agenda, the conferees discussed in detail the organisation board of directors' report about the achievements of the organisation during 1983.

The debate resulted in a decision to form a higher committee, which will comprise Dr. Zaben and Mr. Alawi Kayyal the minister of telegraphs, posts and telephones from Saudi Arabia.

The committee will help the board of directors in their activities during the current session, Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The committee, Petra added, will settle all administrative and organisational affairs necessitated by the nature of the present stage of the organisation's life and its executive departments.

The general assembly also decided to renew the contract of the director-general, Mr. Ali Al Masbat, for another three years, Petra quoted Dr. Zaben as saying.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cement firm shareholders to meet today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) will hold its annual general meeting in Amman Saturday under the chairmanship of its board chairman Zuhair Asfour. The assembly will discuss the company report on the financial year ending on Dec. 31, 1983, and the general accounts report. The JCFC intends to distribute dividends of 12 per cent of the nominal value of the shares to the shareholders by the end of this month.

Six die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Six people were killed and 86 others injured in 172 road accidents which occurred around the country last week, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Traffic Department here. It said that most of the accidents occurred in Amman then followed by Balqa, Badia, Irbid and Karak.

Ministry bans import of produce in May

AMMAN (Petra) — The importing of tomatoes, aubergines, cucumbers, marrows, broad beans, hot and sweet peppers, cauliflower, cabbages, honeydew melons, water melons, green beans and garlic has been prohibited under the trade plan issued by the Ministry of Agriculture for the period May 1 to May 31. The plan also prohibited the importing of citrus fruit, apples, bananas and other kinds of fresh fruit while the export of all these vegetables and fruits have been allowed under the scheme.

Arabsat delegates thank Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegations participating in the seventh session of the general assembly of Arabsat, the Arab Satellite Communication Organisation, Wednesday sent a cable of thanks to His Majesty King Hussein in opening the session.

Outsiders invited to oversee medical exam

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Medical Council (JMC) has decided to invite physicians and specialists from Arab and foreign countries to supervise the examinations for new doctors. According to the council's secretary-general a new doctor has to pass a written and oral examination before he or she can be registered with the Jordanian Medical Association.

Ministers to discuss transport company

AMMAN (Petra) — The ministers of transport in Iraq and Jordan will Saturday hold talks on ways of developing the work and activities of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company. The Iraqi minister, Abdul Jabbar Al Assadi, and his Jordanian counterpart Taher Hikmat will be accompanied by aides to the talks which will also cover the company's future programme.



Talking straight Marwan Muasher

RECENTLY, TWO operations were carried out by Palestinian resistance members in the occupied territories. These operations, which resulted in the loss of civilian lives, were hailed as heroic acts both by our news media and the public at large. These two incidents have triggered mixed emotions in me, ones that I thought I want to share with you. For beyond the emotional reaction to such events, I think it is appropriate to discuss their importance, validity, effects and countereffects on the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict in general.

I have to admit that whenever such actions are committed against Israeli civilians, I have two opposed feelings that pull against each other. On the one hand, I cannot say I feel the elation, the pride that usually comes with hearing about heroic acts. I don't. There is not the satisfaction that comes with an action like, say, the bombing of the Israeli Military Command in Sidon last year. On the other hand, I do not exactly feel sorry for the Israelis either,

Even though every civilised notion tells me it is wrong to kill civilians, there is no deep regret or sorrow. In short, actions like these are troublesome to my mind, because they evoke questions within me about humanity that I previously thought I had definite answers for.

I believe there are serious questions to be resolved, not only individually, but collectively as well. I do not believe these questions have been seriously debated or thought of in the Arab World. Some of them are moral in nature, others just practical. These questions specifically pertain to the legitimacy of actions against civilians in war. To be more blunt, I am asking the question in general of whether it is justifiable or not in war to attack civilians, and specifically whether such actions in our particular case are of any advantage to us.

Such questions do not have clear answers as one might first think. Incidents where civilians were attacked in war are abundant in human history. One has only to

point out to the bombings of European cities by both sides in World War II, and to the Hiroshima atomic bomb, to emphasise that such actions were carried out and condoned by the same societies that today supposedly stand in principle against such acts. Whether one is 30,000 feet away or at point blank from one's victims is of no consequence. The act is still called killing civilians. If the United States used the justification of shortening the war by dropping the atomic bomb, then by the same standards, can't we use the same argument that by killing Israeli civilians, we hope to "shorten the war" by bringing the Israelis to their senses? The question to be resolved here, though, is of a different nature: Just because everybody is doing it, does it make it right? Deir Yassin, Mai Lai, and Sabra and Shatila are still relatively fresh incidents in the world's mind. They represent instances where not only civilians were killed, but also where they were the only intended target. Such actions were condemned by the whole world, as included. But

the general feeling was that they represented actions taken by an occupying force against an occupied society. That is why such actions were strongly condemned, because they were committed by the strong against the weak. That triggers another question: If it is wrong for the oppressor to commit such crimes, is it right for the oppressed? Or is this question simply too naive? Should the oppressed use any means at their disposal against the occupier's society, or should they abide by a civilised code of humanity, even if it is at the expense of his being, or even if his enemy is not abiding by such a code? Is all fair in war? If the oppressor is pushed against a wall where his desperation makes him feel, rightly or wrongly, he has no alternative but to carry out such actions, is it fair to ask him to abide by a civilised code when he was unjustly robbed of the very meaning of civilisation?

These are disturbing questions, but I don't think the answer to them is black or white. For while it is easy to lay back and offer moral

judgements from a distance, the issue is not all that clear to someone who is daily subjected to injustice. I do not suggest an approval to such actions. I am merely pointing out that it is difficult to practise morality in its pure sense when you are constantly faced with immoral acts against your very identity. But let me carry this line of reasoning a little further. If one condones such actions by the oppressed, is there not a danger of opening a can of worms that is difficult to close? In other words, if one allows killing civilians in particular circumstances, is it not difficult to draw the line? Or should one not worry about such matters and treat cases individually as they present themselves?

The other serious question I want to raise is one of a cold, unemotional, tactical nature. Morality aside, are such actions of benefit to us? Will killing Israeli civilians help the Palestinians and Arabs in the long run, or will it only serve to make matters worse?

There are two schools of thought here. One viewpoint states that such actions not only turn

world public opinion against us, but also put Israelis more on the defensive. This line of thought points to the Israeli defensive, hostile attitude towards the world, a feeling that the world is out to get Jews, making it necessary for them always to take their guard against others. In such a case, actions like killing civilians will make Israelis even more oppressive.

The opposite viewpoint states that such actions are necessary as a way to pressure the Israeli government, as well as to point to the plight of the Palestinians, and drive the point home to the Israeli citizen that he/she will never be safe until he/she recognises Palestinian rights.

Among all this confusion, one thing seems clear to my mind. Such actions are a direct consequence of the absence of any effective policies by the Arabs on the Palestine issue, Palestinians included. The lack of any organised, systematic, and well-thought of actions, whatever they may be, to resolve this conflict, can only lead to actions such as these, carried out by frustrated

young men and women who are tired of seeing their homeland slowly vanishing away that they are ready to give their lives for an alternative — any alternative.

I believe we ought to evaluate such actions, and decide whether they are right for us or not. I do not have any answers to this question, and I will probably always have mixed emotions about the issue. But I do not approve of the way our newspapers describe these actions in an attempt to hide our impotence in solving the bigger and more important issues. It very well could be that such actions are justifiable, but the way our media is exploiting them as well as people's emotions is, I feel, not correct. We should not fool ourselves into thinking we are beating the enemy on the mere results of such actions.

But beyond the argument of whether such actions are morally right or not, the sad fact remains that killing among both sides continues. And the real question that still lingers is whether or not this killing will ever stop.

Syrian, Israeli troops in Lebanon

Continued from page 4

independence.

American policy goals were and are to help restore the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and to secure the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. To put it another way, we tried to give the government of Lebanon some breathing space to begin to re-assert its authority. The troops of the Multi-National Forces were few and symbolic. Actually, our own forces were not the largest. France and Italy each sent more troops than we did. It was an international commitment of political and moral support, symbolised by a few troops to show our concern about Lebanon.

It was for the Lebanese to begin to reweave the fabric of Lebanese society and to start the process of national reconciliation. It didn't work out as we had hoped. Our Marines and the French forces got caught in the crossfire. They were to be part of the solution for Lebanon's problem, but they became part of the problem. They have been accused of being there in support of a particular faction, but that was never their purpose. Their purpose was to support the legitimate government of Lebanon. They were withdrawn when the president decided they could no longer serve that purpose. There were other ways in which we could better help the government of Lebanon than to tie down several hundred U.S. Marines. And the other three governments reached a similar decision independently of one another.

The desire to pull Lebanon together once again, to re-unite, to reconcile, has come in the first instance from the political will and efforts of the Lebanese themselves. An outsider can perhaps help to create a framework in which that spirit can grow and develop and have a real meaning expressed through governmental institutions that are respected as truly national in nature. Negotiations are going on to form a government in Lebanon, but they have not yet had concrete results. You asked about Syria. We hope that Syria and Israel with both play roles which will be constructive in finding solutions to Lebanon's problems.

It's not a matter of our assigning responsibility to one country or another. Lebanon desperately needs national unity and reconciliation. This is obvious to all who have visited that country and who have tried to play a constructive role there. Our own effort will continue. Today they continue by diplomacy. Our ambassador in Beirut is in contact with the leadership of virtually every faction in Lebanon and we are trying to play a useful role, but we are not so arrogant as to believe that we can do the job all by ourselves. It will take the Lebanese themselves, it will take the Syrians, it will take the Israelis, to mention just those parties.

Q. Israeli radio has quoted you and Prime Minister Shamir as agreeing that much of the fear of a new round of war is due to the

internal situation in Syria. What is your comment on this?

A. I have not been listening to radio broadcasts since I began this trip. But I don't want to reveal the content of conversations I have had in the course of my trip. I don't think that that would be helpful. Let me say that I see no evidence that Israel wants to go to war with Syria. My impression, based on extensive contacts and visits to Israel over the past several months, is that Israel wants to get out of Lebanon. It is not popular in Israel to have the Israeli army over its border. However, the one thing on which all Israelis agree is the need to assure the security of the northern border of Israel. They are not interested in occupation, much less annexation, of southern Lebanon. But they do not want to return to conditions where their territory is subject to attack from southern Lebanon. Now, to withdraw their forces, they insist that there be in place a force able to ensure the security of the territory from which they withdraw. I can see no evidence that the Israelis believe their national interest is served by permanent occupation of southern Lebanon. This brings me to the May 17 agreement, which was negotiated toughly, over several months, by the Lebanese and the Israelis. We mediated it, and let's remember that the bottom line of that agreement was the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Had that agreement been implemented, it would have, guaranteed their withdrawal. Now that it has been cancelled, some

other arrangement has to be worked out by the parties involved.

Q. How would you guarantee the withdrawal of both parties? Syria says she doesn't want war with Israel.

A. I don't think either party today is seeking a war, but it would not be the first time in history that wars began by accidents, by miscalculation. The two armies today confront each other in the Bekaa Valley, face to face. Now accidents and incidents can happen, and an escalation can happen, just as we were talking about it happening in the Gulf.

History is full of mistakes, unintended slips on judgment by one government or another. So we consider it dangerous. We know that the two armies are in Lebanon on different bases. We acknowledge that they should not be treated in the same way. Syria was invited into Lebanon in 1976; Israel invaded it six years later. But it is really in the interest of either Syria or Israel to remain in Lebanon? I don't think so. Both saw conditions in Lebanon as somehow threatening to them. That's why they moved. So, you have to find a way to remove that sense of threat. Our contribution was the May 17 agreement, which we considered to be a good agreement. Now something else has to be found. As Secretary Shultz said, those responsible for cancelling the agreement bear the responsibility for finding something to take its place.

Q. Do you think that theoretically there is still a possibility for the partition of Lebanon?

A. I think there is a possibility for partition. Over time Lebanon might imperceptibly slide into par-

ition. From the point of view of the American government, partition, whether de jure or de facto, would be a prescription for greater instability. We oppose the partition of Lebanon. It would not serve any useful purpose.

Q. In brief, what is the status of the Jerusalem bill?

A. The president has made it clear he will not move our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The president believes that the status of Jerusalem is an issue which must be negotiated. We have held this position since 1949. Any move by us that would look as if we were pre-judging negotiations on this question would be very damaging to our ability to play a credible role as a mediator in the overall peace process. Furthermore, as Secretary Shultz said the other day, this question goes beyond whether to move our embassy is constitutionally the responsibility of the president or is one shared with the Congress. The question touches some very basic, religious feelings held very strongly by many parties concerning Jerusalem. It is not an act to be seen as a simple administrative decision.

Q. There are rumours that the U.S. is unhappy with President Mubarak's new relationship with the Soviet Union.

A. Egypt has made it plain for some time that it would one day expect to have more normal relations with the Soviet Union. That would not be a surprise. We have a good relationship with Egypt and we are very proud of it.

War of ads between hopefuls

By David Nagy

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Pondering the choice of a presidential candidate, U.S. voters this year have been pelted with political messages as hot as a burning fuse, as poignant as a war orphan and about as subtle as a hydrogen bomb.

The fuse, the orphan and the H-bomb, in fact, are all part of a chilling doomsday imagery projected in the 1984 television advertising of opposition Democratic presidential contenders.

The ads play on consistent opinion poll findings that the U.S. public's fear of war — aggravated by U.S.-Soviet frictions, crisis in Lebanon, hostilities in Central America — has risen sharply since President Reagan took office.

They aim both at Mr. Reagan and at Democratic rivals in the primary elections. And they are "good television," with a stark message that seems to say: If you want peace, vote for me, or else.

The classic to date, grudgingly admired even by victimised political rivals, is Walter Mondale's "red telephone."

Shown in close-up, the blood-red crisis phone gleams in a shadowy setting, its emergency light winking. Could this be war? Why does no-one answer the phone? Has panic set in?

"The idea of an unsure, unsteady, untested hand is something to really think about," a narrator says in a honeyed, conspiratorial whisper typical of all these ads.

"This is the issue of our time. On (date of next primary), vote as if the future of the world is at stake. It might be."

Vote, the voice adds, for mature, crisis-hardened former Vice President Mondale, a man who "knows what he's doing."

The "red telephone" ad was conceived when Mr. Mondale was reeling from early primary election losses to Colorado Sen. Gary Hart and desperate for some dramatic way to counter Sen. Hart's youth-against-age, future-vs-past campaign of "new ideas."

It was run and rerun in Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania, the television component of a two-front strategy that led Mr. Mondale to comeback wins in all those areas.

With the primary season now in a lull and strategy under review, Sen. Hart campaign manager Oliver Henkel conceded recently that the red telephone helped Mr. Mondale immeasurably.

Mr. Mondale aides agree. "Hart was trying to make it something to be held against Mondale that he'd had experience in office," said Spokesman Dayton Duncan. "The ad turns the whole thing around and says, listen, we're talking about the presidency."

If Mr. Mondale aimed, in one 30-second commercial, to twin the inexperienced Hart with the hard-lining Reagan on the nuclear crisis issue, Sen. Hart tried much the same thing in another war-scare ad that met with less success.

The centrepiece of an \$800,000 two-week television campaign Sen. Hart conducted before the

important April 3 New York primary, the "burning fuse" ad accused Mr. Mondale of favouring use of U.S. combat troops to fight Communism in Central America.

As a fuse slowly crackled down towards dynamite with an eerie glow, a voice said: "Remember Vietnam? Mondale agreed with Reagan and said he too would leave some of our troops (in Honduras) as bargaining chips ... will we never learn?"

One of the most wrenching anti-war ads of all was run by former Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota, who tried again this year for the nomination he won in 1972.

It filled the TV screen with the mournful face of a striking, saucer-eyed little girl said to be a Salvadorean war orphan. Her image enlarged until only the jet-black eyes were visible as a narrator said in quiet tones: "Isn't she lovely?"

"She hates our guts, you know. Because we're the Americans, financing the horrors of war that killed her family."

While the doomsday theme has highlighted this year's dramatic presidential campaign ads, the Democrats have spent millions of dollars on commercials that denigrated some rival — usually Mr. Mondale — by other means as well.

Sen. Glenn, once his fiercest rival, led the way with ads depicting the ex-vice president as an outmoded liberal and a captive of special interests like organised labour.

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Qatar clinches Olympic berth

SINGAPORE (R) — Qatar clinched a place in the Los Angeles Olympic soccer tournament with a 2-1 win over Japan in the Asia-Oceania qualifying tournament here Thursday.

Qatar finished top of Group 'B' and joined Saudi Arabia, who won Group 'A' as one of three Asian qualifiers. The third place will be decided on Sunday in a runners-up playoff.

Qatar led 1-0 at halftime against a spirited Japan team who finished bottom of the group without a single point from four matches.

The only blot on Qatar's triumph came in the 78th minute when Philippines referee Tuluk Gurkan dismissed Qatar team manager Abdul Rahman Al Nocini for persistently giving instructions from the touchline.

A crowd of 20,000 at the Singapore National Stadium saw Qatar go ahead after 22 minutes through striker Ibrahim Khalil Ahmad's powerful, low 30-metre shot.

Ibrahim, who scored four goals in four matches, had the chance of a fifth in the 42nd minute after Japanese skipper Hisashi Kato handled his point blank shot near the penalty spot, but Ibrahim's spot kick was brilliantly saved by Kazumi Tsubota.

A cross from the left slammed home by striker Hiroshi Hara spoiled Qatar goalkeeper Mohammad Wafa Sami's unbeaten record in the tournament after seven minutes of the second half.

Qatar snatched the winner in

the 64th minute when Tsutota fumbled a long range shot by Qatar full-back Mohammad Deham Al Sowaidi. The ball bounced off the goalkeeper's chest and striker Khaled Jalnam pounced to slot home from close range.

Iraq qualified to meet South Korea in a play-off for the third

Olympic place from the Asia-Oceania group when they beat Malaysia 2-0 in a second Group 'B' match.

Karim Alawe shot Iraq 1-0 up after 37 minutes following fine work by skipper Hussain Saeed Mohammad. And Mohammad made it 2-0 18 minutes from time when he headed home Matik Abdann's right wing cross.

The win ensured Iraq finished behind group winners Qatar to meet Group 'A' runners-up South Korea on Sunday.

Olympic official says Britain must apply for Budd clearance

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — A senior Olympic official said Friday that Britain must apply for clearance or South African-born barefoot runner Zola Budd will not be able to run in the Los Angeles Summer Games.

W. Daume, West German chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) rules she must reside for three years in her adopted country before becoming eligible but the period can be reduced or abolished by the IOC if Britain and the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) make a joint application.

"It is absolutely necessary that the British National Olympic Committee (NOC) and the IAAF make an application," said Daume. "If not, Budd will have to wait three years."

Opponents of apartheid have raised controversy over her case and the wait-like white athlete was jeered by several black demonstrators during a track appearance in London on Wednesday.

Under International Olympic Committee (IOC) rules she must reside for three years in her adopted country before becoming eligible but the period can be reduced or abolished by the IOC if Britain and the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) make a joint application.

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Sports chiefs meet YWO director

AMMAN (Petra) — The sports federations remarks on the unified sports federations list will be discussed Saturday during a meeting between the Youth Welfare Organisation (YWO) Director General Mohammad Jamil Abu Al Tayyeb and chairman and secretaries of the Jordanian sports federations.

The remarks which were received Thursday will be presented for debate at the meeting to be held at Hussein Youth City Sports Palace, in preparation for issuing annexes to this list and initiating some amendments whenever the demand warrants.

Liverpool, United go into vital matches without captains

LONDON (R) — Liverpool and Manchester United, separated by only two points at the top of the English soccer league, go into key matches Saturday without their captains.

Leaders Liverpool, chasing their seventh crown in nine seasons and their third in succession, play hosts to struggling Ipswich without Graeme Souness. He is serving a one match suspension after collecting too many disciplinary points following his booking at Stoke earlier this month.

And second-placed United entertain West Ham without England captain Bryan Robson, who is still suffering from the hamstring injury which caused him to miss both legs of United's European Cup

Winners' Cup semifinal defeat against Italy's Juventus.

But Robson is hoping to be back in time to boost United's title challenge against Everton next weekend.

United can ill afford to drop any points Saturday. With five matches left, time is running short for Ron Atkinson's side to catch and overhaul Liverpool, who have a better goal difference and an easier looking run-in.

United face tough away games at Everton and Tottenham next month while Liverpool's schedule includes away games at lowly Birmingham and Notts County.

Ipswich, even in the days of internationals Paul Mariner, Alan Brazil and Arnold Muhren, have

never won at Anfield. And they are unlikely to break that sequence Saturday when they face a Liverpool side buoyed by their European Cup semifinal win over Dinamo Bucharest on Wednesday.

Ipswich manager Bobby Ferguson said: "We've been to Liverpool in the past and given some tremendous performances but we've never won there. This time we'll be taking a bunch of kids."

Meanwhile in the university town of Cambridge, academic calm will be shattered by an invasion of thousands of Newcastle United supporters desperate to roar their side — Kevin Keegan and all — back into the first division.

Hassan presents awards to winners
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday patronised the Kingdom's Tai Kwan Do finals for youths and beginners.
At the end of the ceremony which took place at the Hussein Youth City Sports Palace, Crown Prince Hassan presented awards to the winners.

Connors, Arias reach WCT Dallas finals

DALLAS (R) — Jimmy Connors and Jimmy Arias reached the semifinals of the World Championship Tennis (WCT) finals tournament Thursday night before an unruly crowd more interested in listening to radio reports of a basketball game.

Connors, seeded second, was clearly upset by the antics of the crowd during his clash with fellow-American Tim Mayotte.

He dropped the opening set as sections of the crowd cheered loudly as they listened to radio reports of the crucial National Basketball Association playoff game.

Warwick dominates Zolder practice

ZOLDER, Belgium (R) — Derek Warwick of Britain once again demonstrated he has the potential to become a world motor-racing star when he dominated opening practice Friday for Sunday's Belgian Formula One Grand Prix.

The unassuming Warwick romped round the sun-drenched Zolder circuit in a pace-setting one minute 16.311 seconds and left his more illustrious rivals in the shadow of his Renault.

And Warwick gave the likes of championship leader Alain Prost of France and World Champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil — second and third respectively — much to consider by setting his time on race rather than special qualifying tyres.

Warwick has shot to prominence since he joined Renault from Toleman for the start of the season.

between Dallas Mavericks and Seattle SuperSonics.

But Connors fought back to win 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 and line-up a clash with 19-year-old third seed Arias, who dismissed Eliot Teltscher 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in a second all-American quarter-final.

The crowd laughed when Connors dribbled a tennis ball and shot an imaginary basket. But the 31-year-old U.S. Open Champion was, in fact, making his own form of protest.

At one stage in the first set, Connors was reprimanded by the umpire for making an obscene remark about the crowd after dropping his serve to go 5-4 down. He responded by squirting water from his mouth in the direction of the umpire's chair.

Even Mayotte, who benefited from the distraction to Connors, was visibly annoyed with the crowd and was booed when he shouted for them to be quiet. "They were repeatedly making loud ovals for the basketball game during the tennis," the 23-year-old grumbled afterwards.

"If they had wanted to see the basketball, they should have bought tickets to the game."

Mayotte used his powerful serve to leave Connors floundering at the start. But Connors broke Mayotte early in the second to take a 2-0 lead and, although he lost his own serve immediately, kept up the pressure to level the match in the 12th game.

In the third set he broke Mayotte in the fourth and sixth games, again losing his own in between, to take a grip on the match and clinched victory with service breaks in the fifth and final games of the fourth set.

Arias took command from the start against Teltscher in a battle of baseline specialists. He was rarely troubled, except for a brief spell during the third set, and combined his crisp service game with heavy topspin forehands and backhands to unsettle his 25-year-old opponent.

He broke Teltscher's serve in the seventh game to take the first set and went on to take a two-set lead after breaking his opponent in the opening game of the second.

Teltscher had a chance to hit back in the third when he took Arias's serve to lead 5-3 and then held a point for the set. But the young American regained his composure and swept the next four games for the match.

Asked if he would prefer to be playing Connors or top-seeded John McEnroe in the semifinals, Arias replied with a smile: "Neither guy is a pushover, but I probably have a better chance against Connors than McEnroe."

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THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MARCH 13TH BUDGET AND HOW THE NEW TAX LEGISLATION AFFECTS YOU

Mr Tony Findley, a consultant with A.M.P. Overseas Services (Cyprus) Limited will be visiting Jordan from the 26th April to 3rd May and 24th to 26th May. He will be staying at the Holiday Inn, Amman (Tel: 63100 Telex: 21859).

To consult Mr Findley on any of our services please complete the coupon below and post URGENTLY or telephone the hotel following his arrival. The consultation is free and without obligation.

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BASMAN

THE GREATEST

(Colour)

"Indian Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema Tel: 22117
PALESTINE

1- FREEDOM TORCHES (Colour)
2- THE RETURN OF THE BLACK DRAGON (Colour) "Karate"

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema Tel: 22198
RAGHADAN

DOSTANA (Colour) "Indian Film"

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Giant merger wins approval

WASHINGTON (R) — Washington Thursday conditionally approved the largest corporate merger in U.S. history — Standard Oil California's (Socal) acquisition of Gulf Corporation for \$13.4 billion.

In a 4-1 vote, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said the two oil companies could merge if they divested assets worth several hundred millions of dollars to eliminate monopoly problems.

Socal — more widely known as Chevron — needed approval by the FTC, which enforces anti-monopoly laws, before it could complete acquisition of Gulf's outstanding stock for \$80 a share.

Pennsylvania-based Gulf had agreed to be taken over by Socal in order to escape a takeover bid by Mesa Petroleum.

"We believe we have eliminated the anti-competitive effects of this merger," Mr. Timothy Muris, the FTC's top anti-monopoly official, told a news conference.

The previous largest merger

was Texaco Incorporated's purchase of Getty Oil Company for \$10 billion in January.

Oil industry analysts regarded approval of the Socal-Gulf merger as an indication that the government would also approve Mobil Corporation's \$5.7 billion bid for acquisition of Superior Oil, which is pending before the FTC.

A settlement between Socal and the FTC requires divestiture of substantial Gulf assets, including wholesale and retail marketing properties and a major refinery, all in the southeast, and Gulf interests in some pipelines.

Industry analysts said the acquisition of Gulf would give Socal advantages by expanding its crude oil supplies and increasing operating efficiency.

The FTC required that Socal delay integrating Gulf's domestic operations with its own until the divestitures were completed.

The combined company would be the second largest in assets among U.S. oil firms after Exxon Corporation, Mr. Muris said.

World trade rises in 1983

GENEVA (R) — World trade increased by two per cent in 1983, regaining its 1980 levels, and is set to expand further this year, the director-general of the world trade body GATT has said. Mr. Arthur Dunkel said that if trade stabilised at its present levels, 1984 would show a four to five per cent increase over 1983. The growth rate was much faster in the second half of 1983 and seems still to be increasing, said Mr. Dunkel, head of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Mr. Dunkel said increased exports to the United States accounted for one half of last year's net growth in world trade.

ITT wins Turkish deal

STUTTGART (R) — The International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) group said Wednesday it had won a major contract to modernise Turkey's telephone system over the next 10 years. ITT's West German unit Standard Elektrik Lorenz (SEL) said the group's Belgian subsidiary Bell Telephone Manufacturing received a contract from the Turkish authorities to install 3.4 million connections in seven towns, including Ankara and Istanbul, using ITT's system-12 technology. SEL said the first part of the deal was worth \$300 million but it gave no total value for the contract. Most of the equipment will be produced under licence in Turkey, it added.

IMF to lend Peru \$340 n

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Thursday approved a \$340 million loan to assist debt-ridden Peru. Peru will be able to receive \$250 million over the next 15 months under what the international lending agency calls a standby arrangement. It can receive the rest of the loan immediately because it has suffered export problems. In exchange, it must introduce major belt-tightening measures to bring the economy, overheated by deficit spending and other problems, under control.

Japan eases trade curbs in new economic plan

TOKYO (R) — Japan eased its import curbs Friday in an economic liberalisation programme which foreign experts believed would have only marginal effect on the nation's huge and growing trade surplus.

Under the programme tariff cuts on items ranging from peanut butter to machinery will be introduced sooner than previously planned.

Most were made conditional on reciprocal gestures by Japan's trading partners.

But the package made only general references to other controversial areas like opening the domestic market to high technology imports and permitting foreign access to Japan's rich financial and capital markets.

The plan did offer some concessions on another dispute, stringent Japanese standards for testing foreign goods before allowing them into the home market.

In presenting the programme

Japan's minister of international trade and industry (MITI), Mr. Hikosaburo Okonogi, said it embodied "a global viewpoint based on independent Japanese decisions."

Diplomats said they needed time to study it. But some foreign experts doubted it would do much to remedy Japan's trade surplus which the government estimates at \$34 billion over the past year.

The United States has long been pressing for access to Japan for its satellite communication equipment and other high technology material.

Mr. Okonogi's plan promised only appropriate but undefined steps on this issue and on U.S. objections to Japanese plans for

reduced copyright protection for computer software imports.

On liberalisation of financial and capital markets, another subject of strong American pressure, the plan said this would be dealt with "independently, actively and gradually" with detailed measures expected late in May.

Friday's package grew out of pledges exchanged last November between Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and President Reagan.

Since then top U.S. officials have visited Tokyo complaining about slow Japanese progress.

Other foreign leaders have echoed the theme.

Only Thursday visiting British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe observed that previous Japanese liberalisation steps appeared to have had no effect in the trade surplus.

The imports programme was announced amid increasing warnings from the United States and

Western Europe that Japan's exports could run into a damaging wall of trade protection unless its own markets were opened.

Mr. Nakasone has shown concern that the topic should not flare as a factor in the U.S. presidential election campaign.

He also is keen to have some Japanese concessions to cite when he attends the London summit of industrial democracies in June.

Against these pressures have to be set domestic political con-

straints in a year when Mr. Nakasone must win re-election to leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) if he wants to remain as prime minister.

Political sources said last minute discussions within the LDP persuaded the government to drop some planned concessions, including scheduled tariff cuts on paper products, requested by the United States, and on wine requested by the European Com-

munity.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Do not push matters. If you go along with whatever occurs, you will have a pleasant surprise. Not a good time to borrow nor to lend money nor to take any risks.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) It is best to be with good friends and not get involved with others. Any public work will not turn out well.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be more concerned with improving your image and don't go off on any tangents. A friend may come to you for help so do your best.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Go out to new sites and meet interesting people, and avoid a business tie who is looking for trouble. Be patient with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Steer clear of a self-opinionated man today and be with persons who are more modern and progressive.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get into more modern ways of doing things and you can be more successful. Join with co-workers at leisure.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get out to fun places with your mate and have a delightful time together. Avoid grouches. Be imaginative.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Take a little trip with a good partner and put aside worries and tediums of everyday business for now. Drive with care.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A co-worker will join you in some plan you have that can be mutually helpful. You can accomplish a great deal of practical matters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Plan to have as good a time today as you possibly can. Don't get involved in some monetary scheme.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Meet the one you like at a restaurant and be happy together. Handle only that work that is necessary in the morning.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't fume about some worrisome situation; do something constructive about it. Enjoy long-neglected pleasures.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Approach bigwigs for any favors you need. A friend can be too possessive, so avoid for the time being. Be wise.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will have every opportunity to gain fame provided that early in life your progeny does not get enmeshed in something ultra, ultra modern that has no substance. Teach to be discriminating in all things.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed firmer but below the day's best levels amid light profit-taking as the extended Easter account came to a quiet close, dealers said. Thursday's encouraging company news and higher close on Wall Street lifted the F.T. 30 index 7.8 to a record 906.9 at 1000 hours by 1500 the index had drifted back to 905.5.

Market leader ICI was up 8p to 628 after 632 helped by Thursday's higher than expected first quarter results.

Government bonds recovered 1/4 point of opening 1/4 point declines helped by steadier sterling in thin trading, dealers said. Gold shares eased and North Americans were mixed.

Royal Bank of Scotland ended 18p higher at 240 after renewed bid speculation while Babcock & Wilcox added 17p to 669 in sympathy. The main clearers eased where changed with Natwest off 5p at 662 and Barclays 2p down at 502.

Commercial Union fell 4p to 217 and Phoenix eased 5p to 448 both on profit-taking as recent bid talk faded, dealers said. Other insurers were mixed with Refuge up 10p to 456 and Royal down 7p to 568.

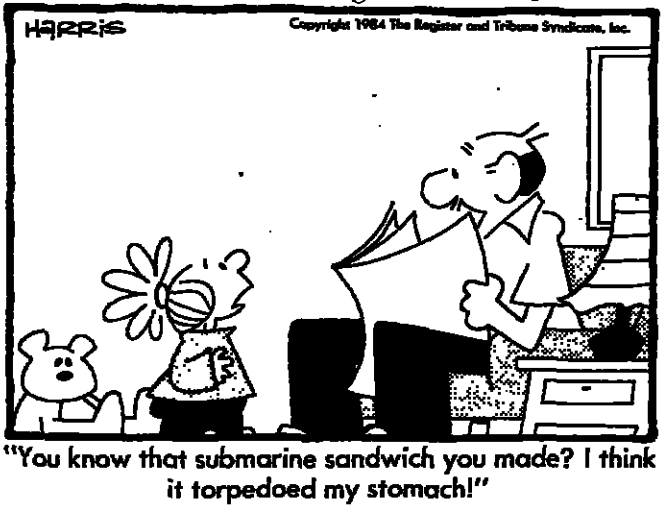
Norsk Hydro rose among oils by £4 to 60 1/4 having touched 61 1/4 after improved first-quarter profits while Clyde firmed 15p to 143 on hopes from its well in the Solent.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4835/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2791/94	Canadian dollars
	2.6973/83	West German marks
	3.0390/400	Dutch guilders
	2.2265/75	Swiss francs
	54.95/98	Belgian francs
	8.2750/2800	French francs
	1671.50/1672.50	Italian lire
	226.10/20	Japanese yen
	7.9520/9620	Swedish crowns
	7.6925/7025	Norwegian crowns
	9.8900/9000	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	377.25/377.75	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



Damascus, Berlin promote links

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria and East Germany signed an agreement on economic, scientific and technical co-operation Thursday, Syria's official news agency SANA reported.

The new protocol, valid for five years, was signed by visiting East German Deputy Premier Gunther Kleiber and Syrian Deputy Premier for Economic Affairs Mr. Abdul Qader Qaddoura.

SANA said it covered the completion of Syrian projects under construction and the promotion of economic links in the electricity, industry, agriculture, transport, communications and trade sectors.

Bolivian union calls general strike

LA PAZ (R) — Bolivia's powerful communist-led Workers' Confederation (COB) Thursday called a 72-hour general strike in protest at recent government austerity measures.

COB leader Mr. Juan Lechin told reporters earlier this week the left-wing government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo had rejected union demands to soften austerity measures announced on April 12.

The package, which the COB criticises as a submission to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), included a 75 per cent devaluation of the peso and price increases of 110 to 600 per cent on basic foods, transport fares and fuel.

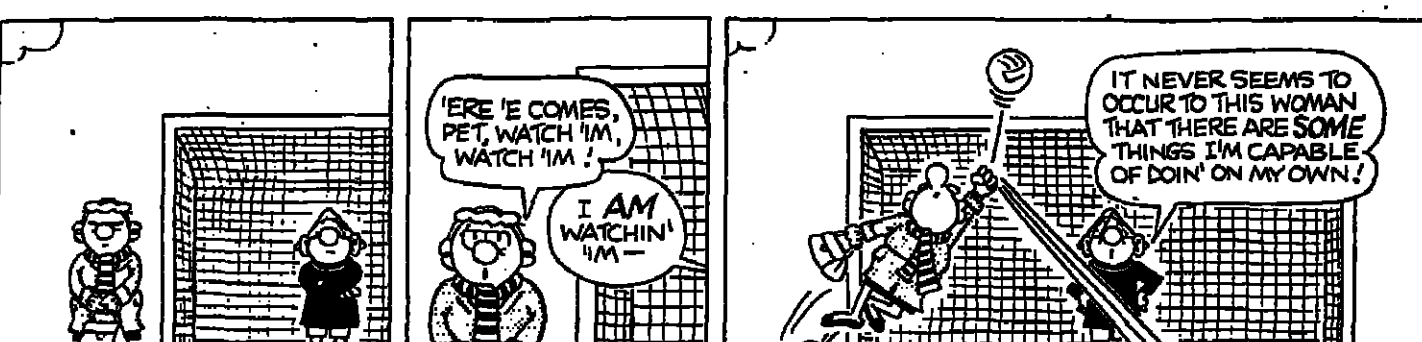
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



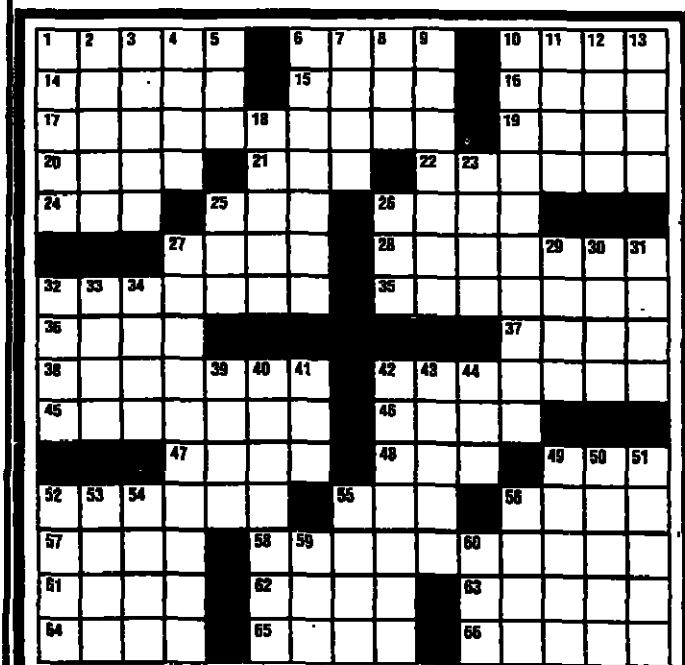
THE Daily Crossword by Dorothea E. Shipp

ACROSS

- Wire
- George or Artie
- Beverage
- Perfume
- root
- Max. food
- Leather bottle
- More likely to cause
- Olive genus
- Handy girl
- Nothing
- Honor
- Inquire
- Lippo
- Fuel

DOWN

- Piggy bank
- Chloride
- Road hazard
- Gummed paper
- Hairdo
- Monarch
- Allergy
- Indications
- Listens
- Pancake makers
- Heath
- Portable shelter
- Remnant
- Ger. exclamation
- Scanty
- Sch. subj.
- Nezlova
- South of France
- Fragrant tree
- Straw in the wind
- London gallery
- Threeloid
- Plank or way
- Pung
- Units of force
- DOWN
- Flora
- Fr. city
- Invigorating
- Flanges
- Sixth sense
- Grooved
- Greeting word
- Aviator
- Exhausted
- One who fawns
- She. Fr.
- Sword
- Quantity of paper
- Join up
- Ran's garment
- Polly Holiday role
- Tiny lengths: abbr.
- Kind of catch
- Like
- Take care of work
- History
- Point - return
- bien
- Omega's relatives
- Borghine and Hemingway
- Plane letters
- Settled
- Islands
- Weight for wool
- Bitter drug
- Duplicate
- Shed
- Los Angeles problem
- Egyptian cotton
- Arab port
- Heraldic term
- Wrong
- Indian mulberry
- Business abbr.



China calls for new talks on nuclear arms reduction

PEKING (R) — China Friday urged the United States and the Soviet Union to resume nuclear arms reduction talks and said it opposed some U.S. actions in Central America, Chinese officials said.

In a meeting Friday morning between President Reagan and Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang, the officials said the Chinese premier had what he termed a friendly and serious review of international affairs.

He was quoted as saying he hoped the United States would halt deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe while the Soviet Union should stop what he called its counter-measures.

He urged the superpowers to return to the negotiating table to work out an agreement on nuclear arms reduction and said if this was not done it would mean an inevitable and progressive escalation of the arms race in Europe.

Mr. Zhao said China was concerned about the continued increase of nuclear missiles deployed in Asia by the Soviet Union.

He said the Soviets should reduce their missiles in Asia and destroy them.

The Chinese officials quoted Mr. Zhao as telling Mr. Reagan his country wanted to normalise relations with the Soviet Union. Soviet First Vice-Premier Ivan Arkhipov is expected to visit Peking in mid-May for talks likely to focus on expanding trade and technical co-operation.

But Peking insists that Moscow remove its military threat to China, the officials added.

The officials, briefing reporters on the meeting, said the talks covered a broad range of international topics, from the Middle

East to South Africa and tension on the Korean peninsula.

China voices concern

On Central America, the officials quoted Mr. Zhao as saying: "China is very much concerned about the worsening tension in Central America by any big power and we are not in favour of some practices of the United States in this region."

"We hope that the United States will support the efforts by the Contadora Group for relaxation of tension in Central America," he said. The group links Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama.

The officials did not give details of Chinese objections.

Mr. Zhao called on Mr. Reagan to consider dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to break the current deadlock in the Middle East, and said the Palestinian question remained the core issue in that region.

A second meeting with Mr. Reagan later Friday was expected to concentrate on bilateral issues, including the thorny question of Taiwan, which both sides say remains the chief obstacle to further improvement of ties.

Prospects for boosting Sino-U.S. trade will also be on the agenda, the aides said.

The announcement Friday that Peking and Washington had finally concluded a nuclear co-operation agreement after three years of often tough negotiations

got the presidential visit off to a good start, diplomats here agreed.

A senior Reagan administration official, announcing the pact, stressed it was not a commitment to supply reactors and nuclear material but rather "a framework agreement which specifies the guarantees and controls under which supply may take place."

\$20b contracts

However the text, to be initiated here on Monday in the presence of Mr. Reagan and Mr. Zhao, opens the way for U.S. industry to bid for contracts worth up to \$20 billion to help China develop its nuclear energy sector.

Mr. Reagan's first contact with the Chinese leaders came shortly after his arrival in Peking Thursday afternoon when he had a 35-minute discussion with President Li.

A senior U.S. official said afterwards Mr. Li's words convinced Mr. Reagan that Peking wanted to improve relations with Washington despite deep differences over U.S. ties with Taiwan.

White House Spokesman Larry Speakes quoted the Chinese leader as telling Mr. Reagan: "We both hope that serious relations will continue although some obstacles exist... our friendship exists to the 21st, the 22nd and the 23rd Century — for all time."

The senior official, who asked not to be identified, said: "We believe this is a significant statement by the Chinese."

Nevertheless U.S. officials expect there to be blunt speaking about Taiwan during Mr. Reagan's talks with Mr. Zhao and Mr. Hu, and particularly Saturday when he meets the country's supreme leader, Mr. Deng Xiaoping.



Konstantin Chernenko

Chernenko planning new party programme

MOSCOW (R) — President Konstantin Chernenko is drafting a new long-term programme for the Soviet Communist Party to replace the discredited and over-optimistic policy goals set out by Nikita Khrushchev in 1961.

The party daily Pravda said Thursday that Mr. Chernenko had outlined his basic ideas for the new document at the meeting with a special commission of the party's Central Committee Wednesday and stressed that above all it should be realistic.

In 1961 programme, which is still theoretically in force, predicted that the Soviet Union would overtake the West in economic terms by 1980 and begin building a truly Communist society based on high living standards for all.

The programme has long been a source of embarrassment for subsequent party chiefs and there have been frequent references to the need to draft a new one.

But Western diplomats said Thursday they were surprised that Mr. Chernenko had so firmly committed himself to producing a new programme in time for the next party congress in 1986.

"This could open a whole can of worms and well prove more trouble for the party leadership than it is worth," one said.

De Lorean lawyer calls for dismissal of charges

LOS ANGELES (R) — A lawyer for John De Lorean called Thursday for the dismissal of all drug charges against the carmaker because an undercover government agent admitted rewriting and adding to his notes on the case.

The agent, Benedict Tisa, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said under intense cross-examination by Chief Defence Lawyer Howard Weitzman that he added to his original notes as long as a year after his investigation ended.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Takasugi took the defence request to drop the charges under submission.

Mr. Tisa, who posed as a corrupt banker in the De Lorean case, told the court earlier that Mr. De Lorean agreed to invest money in a cocaine deal in an unsuccessful attempt to save his car factory in Belfast, Northern Ireland, from being closed by a British receiver.

"You can't destroy evidence," Mr. Weitzman told reporters after Thursday's court session. He said the rewriting of notes was part of what he called a continuing pattern of the government "hiding the ball."

Mr. De Lorean, 59, who was arrested in Los Angeles in October 1982 is accused of conspiring to import 100 kilograms cocaine estimated to be worth \$24 million.

Kennedy family stalked by nearly half a century of tragedy

NEW YORK (R) — For nearly half a century, tragedy has stalked the family of Joseph and Rose Kennedy, despite a clean-like aura of fame, power and wealth.

Of the couple's nine children, four have been killed and with the death on Wednesday of David Kennedy, son of the late Senator Robert Kennedy, one of their 29 grandchildren is gone.

After making a fortune, Joseph Kennedy entered public service and pinned the family's hopes on his eldest son, Joseph Kennedy Jr. But Joe Jr. died in plane crash over Europe during World War II.

His younger brother, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, rose to become president of the United States but was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963, by Lee Harvey Oswald.

Less than five years later, on June 5, Robert Kennedy was shot dead as he celebrated his victory in the California Presidential Primary election at a Los Angeles hotel.

Soviets reject U.S. chemical ban plan

GENEVA (R) — The Soviet Union Thursday formally rejected a United States proposal for a treaty outlawing chemical weapons, telling the 40-nation Disarmament Conference the plan would seriously set back negotiations on the issue.

Moscow's chief delegate Viktor Israilyan told delegates the U.S. draft, tabled last week by Vice President George Bush, contained "deliberately unacceptable" provisions for verification and was aimed simply at hiding American plans for a big chemical rearmament programme.

"Putting forward demands for unimpeded access to the territory of other states continues to block the achievement of agreements on a chemical weapons ban."

"In reality the American draft can only set back negotiations on a chemical weapons ban by many years," Mr. Israilyan said in the first official Soviet response to the U.S. plan.

Washington's chief negotiator Louis Fields told the conference

the draft had not been presented on a "take-it-or-leave-it" basis.

"We are ready and willing to consider alternative approaches and alternative formulations, so long as these would provide an effective ban," he said.

In a separate development Thursday, an official U.S. source said Washington had requested private bilateral talks with the Soviet Union in an attempt to make progress on the chemical weapons issue.

Mr. Fields handed the request to Mr. Israilyan on April 19, the day Mr. Bush tabled the new U.S. proposals, the source said.

So far there had been no response from Moscow but "we are hopeful close and continuing bilateral talks can begin on the margins of the conference," the source said.

Though Washington believed the focus of negotiations should remain within the full conference, he added, "in some issues it is essential to work at problems privately with the Soviets."

Mr. Israilyan, who told Mr. Bush Moscow would study the draft "as we study all documents submitted by any delegation", asked the conference: "Why was it necessary for the United States to put forward such a proposal deliberately unacceptable to the Soviet Union and many other states?"

"We are deeply convinced it was done merely to try to cover, by the big noise of publicity around the American draft, what the American administration is really engaging in — intensive preparations to implement a \$10 billion chemical rearmament programme proclaimed by President Reagan."

The U.S. scheme proposed that governments should agree to open for quick international inspection state-run or state-controlled chemical facilities.

It was attacked in the Soviet media both before and after its unveiling as an "unacceptable propaganda ploy."

Moscow pledges support for Afghanistan

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership Thursday pledged to maintain its military backing for the pro-Moscow government in Afghanistan and help establish its authority over the country.

In a message to President Babrak Karmal on the sixth anniversary of the Communist takeover in Kabul, the Kremlin said Afghanistan was now a "brother country" for the Soviet Union

"which could rely on Moscow's aid and support."

"The Soviet Nation will continue to provide international aid for the defence of the gains of the April revolution and the creation of favourable conditions for the country's advance on the path of creative development," it added.

The Soviet media have so far made no mention of a major military offensive which Soviet and Afghan troops are reported to have mounted against anti-Communist guerrillas in the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul.

During more than four years of involvement in Afghanistan, Moscow newspapers have seldom referred directly to Soviet military action at all and instead port the troops as providing back-

up for the Afghan Army.

PTI said a cloth merchant was also killed by gunmen in a village in Punjab's Faridkot district. Sikh extremists Thursday systematically dynamited stretches of railway track linking Firozpur, a town on the Pakistan border, with Fazilka and Bhatinda. They also damaged a bridge on the Firozpur-Jalandhar line. No casualties were reported in the bomb blasts.

Four killed, many injured in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — At least four people have been killed and several injured in renewed violence in the north Indian state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said Friday.

The agency said an electrician was shot dead by extremists Thursday night in the Sikhs' holy city of Amritsar, where Sikh leaders met in a surprise move to resolve a deep rift over their campaign for

religious and political concessions in the state.

A police spokesman told Reuters at least two people died and a number were wounded Thursday when men on the roof of a Sikh shrine in the Western Punjab town of Moga fired at members of the paramilitary Border security Force (BSF). Shots were exchanged for more than two hours, he added.

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Cosmonauts' maintenance work delayed

MOSCOW (R) — A nut that refused to turn delayed Soviet cosmonauts' maintenance work on the Salyut-7 space station during a spacewalk Thursday, a Soviet newspaper reported Friday.

Snatches of conversation between the cosmonauts and ground control, published in the trade union newspaper Trud Friday, showed that the cosmonauts had to make several attempts to remove a nut on a reserve fuel conduit they were servicing.

"Have you managed to move the nut a bit?" asked former Cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko at Moscow Mission Control.

"Nope. No Way," answered Cosmonaut Leonid Kizim from outside the space station, "the fourth spanner won't grip."

"Try to hit the nut with something," suggested Romanenko.

"We've tried. We brought a hammer with us," said the second spacewalker Vladimir Solovoyov. "We've knocked and knocked on it but with no effect."

After several more exchanges with Earth in which the cosmonauts said they were afraid they might damage a vent on the fuel system by hitting the nut, ground control advised the cosmonauts to try to different type of wrench.

"One, two and off it comes," shouted Kizim at one stage.

But his delight was ill-advised as the nut remained stuck and the cosmonauts had to spend another 40 minutes while their spacecraft was in the dark shadow of the earth before it came off and the maintenance work could be

completed.

The two cosmonauts spent five hours working in space outside their orbital home Thursday, the second time in three days that they had gone out on lifelines to do maintenance work on the spacecraft.

The difficulty with the nut delayed their work Thursday so long that mission control ordered the cosmonauts to break off work and go back inside to resort leaving the job to be completed on another spacewalk.

Kizim, Solovoyov and medical researcher Oleg Atkov, who remained on board the Salyut during the spacewalk, have been in orbit since February and are expected to remain in space for several more months.

Experts unveil plans for planetary probes

HEIDELBERG, West Germany (R) — Proposals for vehicles to roam the planet Mars and a new craft to explore the asteroids have been made public by scientists preparing the first joint U.S.-European projects in planetary space.

The projects, planned for 1992 and beyond, were developed over the past two years by a working group of 12 experts, six from Europe and six from the United States, and presented during a symposium for about 100 scientists here Thursday.

The first of the proposed space journeys, a seven-year trip to soft-land and instrument package on Saturn's moon Titan, would be launched in 1992 if approved by the governments involved.

The most ambitious scheme, costing over \$1 billion, would set

three "semi-intelligent" wheeled vehicles on Mars to roam the surface independently, sampling the climate, drilling the rock and measuring the topography.

Because of the delays involved in relaying instructions 36 million miles from Earth to Mars, the Rovers, propelled by nuclear power packs and rolling on large tyres, would require advanced computer intelligence to prevent them being damaged.

The three Rovers, joined to a centaur rocket, would be carried in the hold of a U.S. space shuttle on the first leg of their five-month journey to Mars, planned for 1996. The rocket would then be launched from an orbit high above Earth.

Frederic Taylor of the Clarendon Laboratory in Oxford,

England, said Mars was of special interest because it was earthlike with a thin atmosphere and close enough to land robot vehicles.

Comparison of its geology and climate could provide major insights into how earth developed and what might be in store for the home planet's fast-changing environment.

The mission to the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter envisaged long-term, close scrutiny of several bodies, a task requiring a new type of space propulsion in which Europe leads the field.

The group of experts was set up by the European sciences foundation and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences to combine intellectuals and technical resources on both sides of the Atlantic.



China uses spiders to catch flies

PEKING (R) — Chinese peasants are going back to nature to cut down agricultural pests, encouraging spiders to catch flies and wasps to attack fruit bugs, the China Daily reported Friday. Under the deadline Peasants Get the 'Bug-Eat-Bug' Bug, the newspaper said Chinese pest control programmes were now using integrated chemical and natural methods to combat insects and crop diseases. In southern China, it said, spiders and parasitic wasps were widely used to feed on rice pests, while wheat in other areas was protected by the natural enemies of the aphids that infest cereal fields.

200 couples married in joint ceremony

SEOUL (R) — Two hundred couples were married in a joint ceremony organised by a state-run corporation in Seoul, company officials said Friday. The newlyweds included Ku Tae-so, 62, and his bride Wu Chong-Ja, 45, who had lived together for the past 22 years and had nine children respectively from previous marriages. The officials said the Korea Export Industrial Corporation held the mass wedding Thursday to help its low-income workers and residents in its neighbourhood to save on wedding costs.

Fishermen haul giant sturgeon

VIENNA (R) — Bulgarian fishermen caught a giant 165 kilogramme beluga sturgeon from the river Danube at Vidin, north-west Bulgaria, the official BTA News Agency reported. It said the catch last week was a record: BTA said the beluga season got off to a fine start with Vidin fishermen on the first day alone hauling in over half a tonne of the giant sturgeons, from which 58 kilograms of caviare were obtained.

Mao's third wife dies

PEKING (R) — Chairman Mao Tse-tung's divorced third wife He Zizhen has died in Shanghai at the age of 75, the People's Daily said Thursday. The back page obituary in the official Communist Party paper did not mention her ill-fated marriage but portrayed her only as a prominent veteran Communist Party cadre. Mao, who died in 1976 aged 82, was married four times.

Liz Taylor denies reports of marriage

TAIPEI (R) — American actress Elizabeth Taylor Friday denied that she had been married in China to Mexican lawyer Victor Luna. Taylor said when she arrived for a week-long visit to Taiwan that press reports they had been married at China's Great Wall last week were "ingenious but untrue". The actress, who has been married and divorced seven times, told reporters she had no plans to get married in the near future. Commenting on her China trip, she quipped: "I did not expect any fans there. If there are, they must be pandas." Taylor said her films were not shown in China and she was not recognised there.

Zoo creditors kill rare beasts

TOKYO (R) — Creditors of a hard-up private zoo in Japan adopted a drastic style of debt collecting. They seized 11 rare animals, had them shot and sent them away to be stuffed for sale. Police at Nagano in central Japan told newsmen Friday that animal lovers had alleged the slaughter of four Siberian tigers, a leopard, four Malay bears and two Himalayan bears was illegal. Police said they decided that although the animals killed at the small Himekawa Moju Zoo late last year were on the endangered species list the case was a civil dispute, not a criminal violation.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K1095 ♥ 7 ♦ J652 ♣ QJ93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ Dble ?

What do you bid now?
A. — Offensively, you have quite a fair hand, but you do not have much to contribute in the way of defense should the opponents buy the hand. Jump to three spades. Over a takeout double, that action is preemptive. It might seem that you are too strong for this bid, but at this vulnerability, you should have a little something in reserve.

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 95 ♥ AK93 ♦ KQJ4 ♣ KQ6
Partner opens the bidding with four spades. What action do you take?
A. — First, bear in mind that partner has made a preemptive opening bid. If he had a solid spade suit and an outside ace, he would have opened one spade. Therefore, slam must be at best on a fessne — at worst, it has no play at all. Pass, and take your profit.

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ QJ7 ♥ KQ8 ♦ AQJ6 ♣ K98
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass Pass 2 ♣
Pass Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A. — You have a maximum no trump opening and a superb fit for partner's suit, but you must still pass! Remember, partner could not act over your strong opening bid. He must have long diamonds and almost nothing in the way of high cards.

Q.4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AQJ652 ♥ AK10 ♦ 952 ♣ 7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Dble ?

What do you bid now?
A. — We usually suggest that you rebid a good six-card major suit. Here, however, there are more important factors to consider. You have a good hand and fine support for partner's suit, so you should fix a playable suit as soon as possible to allow room for exploration should partner have slam aspirations. Raise to three hearts. If you fail to raise hearts now, partner will never believe you have such excellent trump support.

Q.5 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KJ5 ♥ J33 ♦ Q9652 ♣ Q106
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♥ Dble ?

What action do you take?
A. — You have only modest values, but if you don't act now, you may find it difficult to enter the auction at a later stage. You have a balanced hand with stoppers in all suits, and one no trump describes your hand perfectly.

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q83 ♥ K87542 ♦ 83 ♣ J7
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ Dble Pass ?

What action do you take?
A. — You must certainly cannot convert partner's takeout double to penalties — your trump suit quality leaves a great deal to be desired. And don't consider one no trump — that response suggests fair values. Partner has asked you to bid your best suit, so respond one spade.

Dominicans return to work

SANTO DOMINGO (R) — Offices, shops and factories in the Dominican Republic re-opened their doors Friday as more people returned to work following food riots which claimed more than 50 lives.

Security officials said patrols continued in Santo Domingo and 20 other towns and villages torn by violence when the poor of the Caribbean island protested against price rises decreed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The officials said many of the 5,000 people detained during the disturbance were being released after identification. Streets and parks, littered by barricades and remnants of burned tyres, were being cleared.

Government officials and International Monetary Fund (IMF) negotiators continued top-secret talks on easing the republic's economic problems.

It was an across-the-board price increase in food and basic goods of more than 50 per cent which sparked the rioting on Monday.

The loan talks centre on terms for renewal of a \$450-million IMF credit extended to the Dominican Republic to ease a \$2.6-billion external debt, consuming some 20 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

President Salvador Jorge Blanco, who said the IMF terms were the "bitter medicine" needed to make up for past largesse in fiscal and economic policies, remained in close touch with the special armed forces group controlling law and order, officials said.

Mr. Jorge Blanco blamed leftist and rightist extremists for the violence, saying in a televised speech that the unrest was the result of a planned, co-ordinated effort.

Diplomat and economists interviewed here said the riots were a warning that the six million Dominicans would not swallow a too bitter medicine.

With 25 per cent unemployment and another 25 per cent under-employment, the country is suffering the double blow of skyrocketing oil prices and a drop in world prices for its main exports,